

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-10

NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 SPC-03 FEA-02

SAM-01 DRC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 H-03 EURE-00 /170 W

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P 301831Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2607

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT: GREAT LAKES WEATER QUALITY - PRESS COVERAGE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF EDITORIAL PUBLISHED JAN 26 TORONTO  
GLOBE AND MAIL ENTITLED "OUR LAGGARD PARTNER":

QUOTE. WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU LIVE BESIDE SOMEONE WHO  
PERSISTS IN TOSSING HIS GARBAGE INTO HIS BACK YARD SO THAT  
THE STENCH DRIFTS OVER YOUR WAY? HOW LONG DO YOU KEEP  
UP A NEIGHBORLY SMILE WHEN YOUR REPEATED POLITE HINTS TO  
THE PERSON NEXT DOOR TO CLEAN UP HIS MESS GO IGNORED OR  
ARE MET WITH EMPTY PROMISES?

TWENTYMONTHS AGO, PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON CAME TO OTTAWA  
FOR A NEIGHBORLY VISIT AND SIGNED THE GREAT LAKES WATER  
QUALITY AGREEMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU  
COMMITTING CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES - SO WE ALL  
THOUGHT - TO CLEAN UP THE LAKES. TO END THE DAILY SPEWING  
OF HUNDREDS OF TONS OF HUMAN AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE INTO  
THE BASIN. TO TRY TO RESTORE THE LAKES AND THEIR  
SHORELINES TO THE LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR MAN,  
BEAST AND FISH THAT THEY WERE BEFORE MAN BEGAN POISON-  
ING THEM.

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BY THE END OF 1975, ACCORDING TO THE AGREEMENT'S TERMS, THE REQUIRED WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS IN BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD BE EITHER COMPLETED OR IN PROGRESS. THE CANADAIAN PROGRAM - IN EFFECT, ONTARIO'S PROGRAM WITH FEDERAL HELP - WILL BE COMPLETED BY THAT DATE WITH A FEW MINOR EXCEPTIONS. NO ONE SERIOUSLY BELIEVES THE AMERICAN PROGRAM WILL BE COMPLETE OR EVEN SUBSTANTIALLY UNDER WAY. ITS ACTIONS TO DATE CAN BE DESCRIBED ONLY AS PATHETICALLY ANEMIC.

CANADIANS CAN LOOK ACROSS THE BORDER TO SEE AN UNCOMFORT- BLY EMBARRASSED US. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - WHICH ADMINISTERS FEDERALLY FINANCED WATER POLLUTION PROGRAMS - SWALLOWING NERVOUSLY AS IT GOES ABOUT TRYING TO ASSURE CANADA THAT THE UNITED STATES STILL INTENDS TO HONOR THE AGREEMENT. MEANWHILE, BEHIND THE EPA'S BACK, PRESIDENT NIXON AND CONGRESS SEEM BENT ON SCUTTLLING THE WHOLE THING.

CONGRESS ORIGINALLY AUTHORIZED \$18 BILLION I FEDERAL GRANTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 1973, 1974 AND 1975 TO COMBAT WATER POLLUTION THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. PRESIDENT NIXON HAS REFUSED TO SPEND ONE-THIRD OF THE SUM - \$6 MILLION TOTAL; \$3 BILLION FOR FISCAL 1975 ALONE - CITING INFLATION AND 'COMPETING NATIONAL PRIORITIES' AS THE REASON. PROMINENT AMONG THESE 'COMPETING' PRIORITIES, OF COURSE, WOULD BE MATTERS CONCERNING THE PENTAGO - WHICH HAS JUST RELEASED FIGURES SHOWING THAT COSTS FOR 47 MAJOR WEAPONS ARE NOW \$21 BILLION BEYOND ORIGINAL ESTIMATE, FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$131 BILLION. WITH THE WATER POLLUTION MONEY THUS THINNED OUT, THE EPA INSTRUCTED THE EIGHT GREAT LAKES STATES THAT THE FEDERAL GRANTS STILL AVAILABLE TO THEM WOULD HAVE TO BE SPENT FIRST ON COMBATING POLLUTION ON THE GREAT LAKES AND ONLY SUBSEQUENTLY USED FOR PROJECTS ON RIVERS AND WATER BODIES IN OTHER PARTS OF THEIR STATES. VERY QUICKLY CONGRESS PASSED A LAW FORBIDDING THE EPA TO SET THESE PRIORITIES . . . A RETALIATORY SLAP AT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION AND AN ATTEMPT TO HUMILATE IT ABROAD.

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AS ONE SENTATE STAFF OFFICIAL SAID INNOCENTLY, NO ONE IS STOPPING MR. NIXON FROM COMPLYING WITH THE GREAT LAKS AGREEMENT; HE HAS ALL THE MONEY HE NEEDS TO DO THE JOB ONCE HE RELEASES THE IMPOUNDED \$6 BILLION. 'IT'S BECAUSE WE WANT NIXON TO SPEND THE MONE HE'S SUPPOSED TO,' SAID AN AIDE TO DEMOCRATIC SENATOR EDMUND MUSKIE, ONE OF THE ARCHITECTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT IF THE

NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS REALLY DETERMINED TO COMPLY WITH THE AGREEMENT IT COULD ASK CONGRESS FOR A SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS - WHICH WOULD MEAN, HOWEVER, REOPENING THE WHOLE ISSUE OF IMPOUNDMENT AND, POLITICALLY, COMPELLING THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION TO BOW TO CONGRESS. ONE OTHER WAY WOULD BE TO GATHER THE NECESSARY MONEY FROM A NUMBER OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND BUDGETS, A LITTLE HERE, A LITTLE THERE. BUT THIS WOULD LIKELY STIR UP POLITICAL OPPOSITION OF THE SORT THAT LED TO THE CONGRESSIONAL BAN AGAINST EPA PRIORITIES. MEANWHILE, AS THE AMERICAN POLITICIANS FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES, AMERICAN FILTH STILL POURS INTO THE WATER WE SHARE WITH THEM AS A MEMBER OF THE GREA LAKES COMMUNITY.

CANADIAN AMBASSADOR MARCEL CADIEUX HAS BEEN TO SEE RUSSELL TRAIN, HEAD OF THE EPA, WHO HAS SAID THE UNITED STATES IS STILL COMMITTED TO THE AGREEMENT. MR. CADIEUX IS TALKING TO THE WRONG MAN. MR. TRAIN NEEDS NO SELLING JOB DONE ON HIM; HE'S THE ENVIRONMENTALIST. AND MR. TRAIN CANNOT SPEAK FOR THE MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE OR FOR THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. YESTERDAY PREMIER WILLIAM DAVIS AND THE GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK STATE WERE CANVASSING THE SUBJECT.

WHAT IS REQUIRED IS A DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, SENT THROUGH CHANNELS OF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, REMINDING  
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